GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2333
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
MINING BY BALCO
Singh Shri Murarilal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bauxite mining being carried out by BALCO in Chhattisgarh is causing damage to the environment and forest of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban mining of bauxite by BALCO;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Environment & Forests has accorded environmental clearance to the two bauxite mining projects of M/s BALCO in the State of Chhattisgarh, after following due process. While according the environmental clearances, necessary conditions and environmental safeguard measures have been stipulated for their implementation during the project cycle. Forestry issues are taken care of while granting forestry clearance which is a pre-requisite for working in forestland involved in any mine lease.

(c) & (d): There is no proposal to ban mining of bauxite by BALCO.

(e): The two Environmental Clearances have been granted based on the appraisal and recommendation of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Mining) on the basis of the EIA reports.